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Work and Workers.

DR. JOSEPH J. LAMPE, of New York, has been appointed to the Professorship of Old Testament Literature and Exegesis in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha, Neb.

THE presidency of Lane Theological Seminary, at Cincinnati, has been offered to the Rev. Samuel J. Nicolls, D.D. of St. Louis ; it is not yet known whether he will accept the appointment.

A NEW work upon a subject of great interest and importance is promised in Dr. Franklin Johnson's *Quotations of the New Testament from the Old*, to be issued this month by the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

THE last volume of the Expositor's Bible series will soon be published. It is upon the minor prophets, bearing the title, *The Book of the Twelve Prophets*, and is prepared by Dr. George Adam Smith, whose previous contributions to the series have done much toward making its reputation.

THE International Sunday School Lesson Committee, at its recent meeting in Montreal, filled the vacancy in that body caused by the death of Dr. JOHN A. BROADUS, by the election to that position of Dr. John R. Sampey, Professor of Old Testament Interpretation in the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., of which Dr. Broadus was the president.

A NEW work of great interest for students of early church history is the *Skizzen aus dem Leben der Alten Kirche*, by Professor Zahn, of Erlangen, than whom there is no abler or safer guide to a knowledge of this period. There are seven essays upon the following subjects: "Prayer in the Name of Christ in the Apostolic Age," "The Social Problem and Home Mission Work on the basis of the Epistle of James," "Slavery and Christianity in the Ancient World," "The Mission Methods of the Apostolic Era," "The Relations of the Church to the State in the First Three Centuries," "The History of the Sunday, especially in the Ancient Church," and "Constantine the Great and the Church." The work contains also two appendices, one upon "Christian Prayers from the years 90 to 170," the other "A Christian Address from the Fourth Century on 'Rest from Labor on Sunday.'" There is much new information in these pages, and some important rewriting of things already discussed.

FOR the entire year of 1897 the International Sunday School Lessons are to be upon the Acts and the Epistles. This is a desirable arrangement. The only way to study satisfactorily the New Testament books outside of the four gospels is to study them in their chronological relation to each other, the Acts

forming the framework and the Epistles introduced at their proper historical points. The arrangement made for the lessons gives only brief glances at some of the Epistles, and those not arranged in true chronological order. But it will be altogether possible for teachers and students to do what the lesson committee have not done, make the arrangement of the New Testament books historical and complete. Altogether the finest work for this purpose, indeed precisely the work needed, has just been published by Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York. It is an arrangement of the Acts and Epistles in their chronological order, the full text printed in the revised version, with abundant cross-references, the work of Professor E. D. Burton of the University of Chicago. The full title of the work is *The Records and Letters of the Apostolic Age*. It will be *the* book to use in the Sunday School during 1897. It is greatly to be hoped that the Acts and the Epistles will be studied from the historical point of view, and comprehensively, this time, as well as ethically and doctrinally.

THE *Sunday School Times* of December 14th contains an editorial entitled "Helps to the Study of the Third Gospel" which is open to criticism both for what it names and for what it does not name. It would have been much better to have named only a few of the latest and best works upon Luke, and the life of Christ—books which one cannot afford to be without in the study of the third gospel, rather than to have given the names of a long list of books which are of all grades of value, and many of which have been superseded by more recent publications. The reader is not sufficiently guided to a choice among the books named; for example, after naming ten commentaries upon Luke it is said, "of all these, Godet, Meyer, Maurice, Burton, McLaren and Riddle are to be preferred." Perhaps they are, but in any case the commentaries of Maurice, Burton, and McLaren cannot be classed with those of Godet and Meyer, and there is no indication that some of these works are more valuable than others, or which of them should be bought first by the Sunday School teacher. Godet's commentary on Luke is undoubtedly the one commentary which every Sunday School worker should, if possible, buy. Meyer's commentary on Luke cannot be used without having his commentary on Matthew, a fact which few would know. Burton's work referred to (Expositor's Bible series) does not serve the purpose of a commentary at all. And so there are many things which should have been said, if the reader was to obtain any real guidance in the purchase or use of books on Luke. Of the Lives of Christ seven are named, with no indication as to which one or two of the seven should be bought—consecution of the names is no criterion, for Andrews and Stalker are the last two named. There can be no doubt that for the general Sunday School worker the Lives of Christ by Edersheim and Andrews are first, and without any rivals; that information should have been given. No mention is made of Weiss's or Neander's Life of Christ. Again, five works upon the Parables are named, without indication as to relative value, while one of the most useful popular works is omitted—that by Dr. Dods (London: Hodder & Stoughton), and the excellent little work of

Salmond (New York: Scribners) is omitted. In mentioning books upon the Holy Land no reference is made to Henderson's *Palestine*, the best and most reliable small work on this subject (Handbooks for Bible Classes, imported by Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York), nor to Dr. George Adam Smith's magnificent work entitled *The Historical Geography of the Holy Land* (London: Hodder & Stoughton), which throws every other work on Palestine into the background. In the matter of New Testament introductions why should Reuss's *History of the Scriptures of the New Testament* be specially recommended to the Sunday School worker, and in recommending Godet's *Introduction to the New Testament* for the study of Luke would it not have been well to state the fact that that work at present has got no farther than the Pauline Epistles? But the most remarkable omission is in the list of "Harmonies of the Gospels in English." Riddle's edition of "Robinson's Harmony," and "Gardiner's Harmony," besides one British Harmony, are mentioned, all of them giving the authorized version. These have all been superseded in every respect by the more recently published harmonies, in the revised version, of Dr. Broadus (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son) and of Professors Stevens and Burton (Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co.). Notice was taken of these two works in the *Sunday School Times* of June 2, 1894; now, when they should have been recommended above all others, they are entirely forgotten. Six years ago (January-June, 1890) the Gospel of Luke was the basis of the International Lessons, and in the *Sunday School Times* of December 14, 1889, an editorial appeared giving a list of works for the study of this gospel. The list there given was much longer, but some attempt was made to discriminate between the works as to relative value. The publishers of the thousand and one books upon the gospels and the life of Christ are of course gratified to have their books mentioned, but theirs is really the only interest served thereby. Here is the average Sunday School worker who can at most afford to buy for the study of Luke one English Harmony of the gospels, one or two Lives of Christ, one (possibly two) commentaries on Luke, and one work on Palestine. The particular function of the *Sunday School Times* is to give him such information as will enable him to choose which are the best books in these classes for him to purchase. Instead of that, a list of five to ten works in each class is named without any description of them or comment upon them which could form the basis of a choice. What he wants to know is, which book to buy first in each class; we should say that beyond question he should buy the Stevens-Burton *Harmony of the Gospels*, the *Lives of Christ* by Edersheim and Andrews, Godet's *Commentary on Luke* (and if a second is possible, Meyer's), and G. A. Smith's *Historical Geography of the Holy Land* (or if that cannot be afforded, then Henderson's *Palestine*). If other books are to be mentioned, either for reference or for further purchase, they should be named in the order of their value in each class, and a brief description of each attached. Mere lists of authors, titles and publishers are not of much value to the book buyer.